

MERS SITUATION UPDATE | FEBRUARY 2021

Highlights

- At the end of February 2021, a total of 2572 laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), including 886 associated deaths (case-fatality rate: 34.4%) were reported globally; the majority of these cases were reported from Saudi Arabia (2172 cases, including 808 related deaths with a case-fatality rate of 37.2%).
- During the month of February 2021, one laboratory-confirmed case of MERS was reported from United Arab Emirates. Four laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS were also reported from Saudi Arabia with two associated deaths. The reported cases were not linked to any clusters. All cases reported were males. No healthcare worker infections were reported this month.
- The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of reported cases, when compared during the same corresponding period of 2015 to 2020, do not show any significant difference or change.
- The age group 50–59 years continues to be at the highest risk for acquiring infection of primary cases. The age group 30–39 years is most at risk for secondary cases. The number of deaths is higher in the age group 50–59 years for primary cases and 70–79 years for secondary cases.

SUMMARY

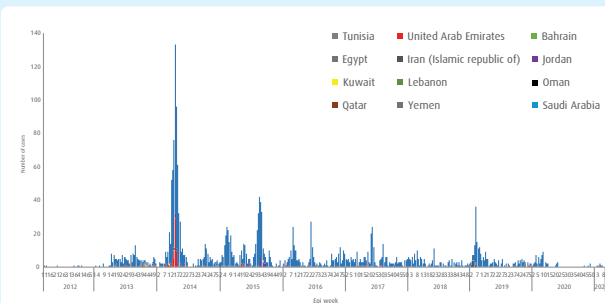
2572
Laboratory-confirmed cases reported since April 2012

12
Countries reported cases since April 2012 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

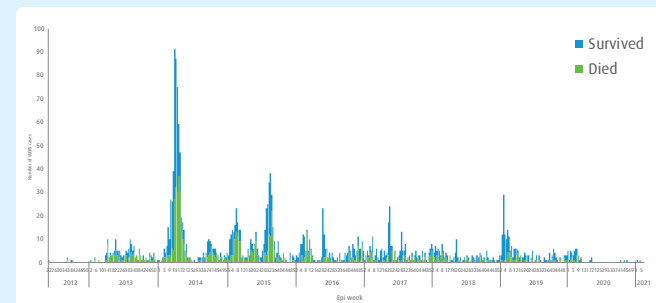
886
Deaths reported since April 2012

27
Countries reported cases globally

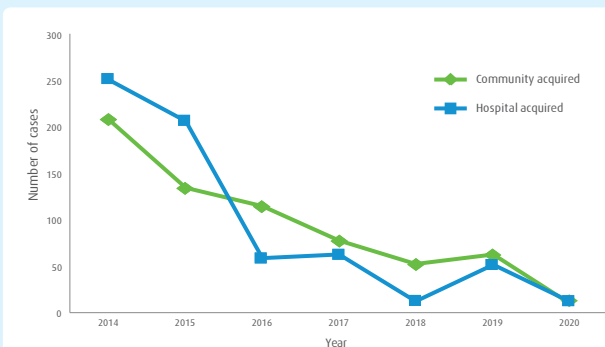
Distribution of MERS reported cases from Eastern Mediterranean Region by week of onset, June 2012 – February 2021



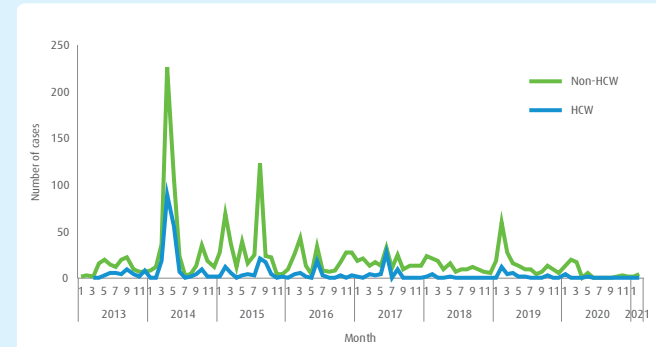
MERS cases per week of onset in Saudi Arabia, June 2012 – February 2021



Community versus hospital acquired MERS cases in Eastern Mediterranean Region, January 2014 – February 2021



Cases of MERS in healthcare workers reported from Saudi Arabia, January 2013 – February 2021



Epidemiological characteristics of MERS cases reported globally between September 2015 - February 2016 and September 2020 - February 2021

Characteristic	Sept 15 - Feb 16	Sept 16 - Feb 17	Sept 17 - Feb 18	Sept 18 - Feb 19	Sept 19 - Feb 20	Sept 20 - Feb 21
Number	123	120	96	131	76	10
Median age in years	49	57	56	51	57	56
Gender (% male)	67	77	76	79	82	100
% of Primary Cases	17	42	35	32	28	70
% of Secondary cases	43	10	10	50	11	0
(%) of Unknown Contact History	4	2	0	1	49	20
% of HCW	22	4	4	10	7	0
% Fatal	23	36	41	19	30	50

Characteristics of MERS cases reported from Saudi Arabia, June 2012 - February 2021

Type of case	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Grand Total
Missing		1	15	102	103	68	52	56	7		404
Primary	3	36	164	52	75	70	54	57	11	3	525
Secondary	2	93	264	222	60	90	35	75	9		850
Unknown		28	219	78	11	5	1	16	33	2	393
Grand Total	5	158	662	454	249	233	142	204	60	5	2172

Age and fatality distribution of primary and secondary cases of MERS reported from Saudi Arabia June 2012 – February 2021

